

CLAIMS

1. A lithographic printing plate precursor comprising:
 - a substrate; and
 - a lipophilic layer deposited on the substrate,
- 5 wherein said lipophilic layer comprises a cross-linked product obtained by cross-linking a polymer having a thermally decomposable group on a main chain with a cross-linker.
2. The lithographic printing plate precursor according to Claim 1, wherein said
- 10 thermally decomposable group is an azo group.
3. The lithographic printing plate precursor according to Claim 1, wherein said polymer has a functional group that is reactive to the cross-linker.
- 15 4. The lithographic printing plate precursor according to Claim 1, wherein said substrate has a hydrophilic surface.
5. The lithographic printing plate precursor according to Claim 1, wherein said lipophilic layer contains a photo-thermal conversion agent.
- 20 6. The lithographic printing plate precursor according to Claim 1, wherein a hydrophilic layer is provided between said substrate and said lipophilic layer.
7. The lithographic printing plate precursor according to Claim 6, wherein said
- 25 hydrophilic layer contains a photo-thermal conversion agent.

8. A preparation method for a printing plate wherein the lithographic printing plate precursor according to any one of Claims 1 to 7 is exposed to an infrared laser beam to remove the lipophilic layer in the exposed area.